

when our country is at war and the lives of our men and women in the armed services depend on the equipment that is supplied to them by our procurement offices. Unfortunately, and to my complete dismay, there have been far too many instances over the past decade where the Pentagon's procurement policies have sold our soldiers short.

In January of 2006 it was revealed by the New York Times that an internal Pentagon memo reported that 80 percent of the Marines killed in Iraq due to upper body wounds could have survived if they had extra body armor. This troubling news followed earlier revelations that our troops went into Iraq without enough bulletproof vests and armored vehicles necessary to safeguard their lives. In light of these reports I requested that the Department of Defense Inspector General conduct an investigation into the Pentagon's body armor procurement policies. The Inspector General's initial findings, while incomplete, uncovered a troubling trend: 13 of the Army's 28 body armor contracts between January, 2004, and December, 2006, did not either require, perform, or have documentation to support proper first article testing as required by Federal Acquisition Requirements. While I am waiting for the Inspector General to complete a more thorough audit of the overall body armor procurement policy, these initial results should spark the desire for greater contracting oversight in any civic minded person.

In addition to the DoD IG's findings on body armor, there have been numerous recent public cases where the Pentagon's procurement policies have failed our troops. Earlier this year it was revealed that in 2007, the Army awarded a contract worth over \$200 million to two 22 year old boys to supply ammunition to Afghan troops. Appallingly, this ammunition was found to be from the Cold War era and completely inadequate for the Army's needs. Additionally, the botched contract award by the Air Force for KC-135 tankers, which was, challenged, reviewed by GAO, and ultimately reopened, received even greater public scrutiny. And perhaps most damning is the recent GAO report that the Pentagon has wasted about \$300 billion in defense spending.

These public examples show a disturbing trend of the failure of Pentagon procurement policy. They also suggest that an increasingly blurred line between the public and private sectors as identified by the Advisory Panel, as well as the perceived "revolving door" between contracting offices and private contractors, have consistently undermined the public's best interest.

This legislation will fight the revolving door between Pentagon contracting offices and private defense contractors by strengthening the transparency and reporting requirements for private contractors bidding on and receiving defense contracts. The Fairness and Accountability in Defense Contracting Act will require contractors who are bidding on contracts to disclose any Defense Department employment history of its employees. This legislation will also require that contractors submit a yearly report, for each year that a contract is in effect, which discloses this Defense Department employment history. The Department of Defense will also be required to submit a report to congressional defense committees that details the employment information reported by the contractor as required by this Act. And finally, this legislation will direct the GAO to

submit a report to Congress on the implementation and enforcement of rules governing future employment negotiations of contracting officials.

These measures will provide the transparency necessary to ensure that conflicts of interest with the Defense contracting offices, and a perceived revolving door to the private sector, are not undermining the public trust and selling the American taxpayers short. Most importantly, this legislation is necessary to ensure that defense contracting policies serve to provide the best possible equipment for our men and women in uniform at the best possible value to the taxpayer.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MATTHEW K. ROSE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Matthew K. Rose, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Rose is being honored as this year's Fort Worth Business Executive of the Year and will be inducted into the Fort Worth Business Hall of Fame.

In June 1999, Rose became Chief Operating Officer of Burlington Northern Santa Fe where he was responsible for all operations and marketing activities. He quickly accrued accomplishments, being made President and Chief Executive Officer in December of 2000, and later being elected Chairman of Burlington Northern Santa Fe in March of 2002.

In addition to leading the company to five consecutive years of recordsetting revenue earnings, Rose rebuilt flood-damaged rail lines ahead of schedule and won national recognition for this accomplishment. Rose's peers know him as not only a gifted businessman but also as a man with excellent leadership skills and a strong ability to work well with others.

It is with great honor that I recognize Matthew Rose for his hard work and leadership given to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. He sets a great example for us all, and I am proud to represent him in Washington.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES C. BINNICKER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James C. Binnicker, a man who has dedicated a lifetime of service both to our country and to the families of our military veterans. It is my pleasure and privilege to honor him as a great leader and a great American.

Mr. Binnicker's career of service began as a Civil Air Patrol cadet in his hometown of Aiken, South Carolina. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1957. Mr. Binnicker served honorably and with distinction for more

than thirty years. He reached the pinnacle of achievement in 1986 when he was selected to be the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force is a unique non-commissioned rank. As the highest enlisted leader in the Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant Binnicker served as the personal adviser to the Air Force Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, and utilization of the enlisted forces. There have only been fifteen Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force in the history of the U.S. military, and Mr. Binnicker was the ninth.

When Mr. Binnicker retired from the Air Force in 1990, he could have rested on the legacy he had created. Instead, he took on another challenge, the leadership and development of the Air Force Enlisted Village, a non-profit charity in Shalimar, Florida that provides a home for the surviving spouses of enlisted airmen. As President and CEO of the Enlisted Village, Mr. Binnicker oversees a \$28 million organization with 86 employees who care for more than 500 independent and assisted living residents on two campuses.

Mr. Binnicker's accomplishments were recognized in 2008 when the Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging selected him as their "Executive of the Year." Considering that caring for the elderly is a second career for Mr. Binnicker, the honor of being recognized by his peers in the state's largest aging-services organization is quite significant. Mr. Binnicker has dedicated his life to helping those in need, we will be eternally grateful for his service.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor one of America's true heroes, James C. Binnicker, for his leadership and service to Northwest Florida and throughout the world.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLEAR LAKE PATROL DIVISION AND HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the Clear Lake Patrol Division of the Houston Police Department for its outstanding service to the Houston community in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

In the days following the storm, the Clear Lake Patrol Division was dispatched to provide security at the congressional mobile office at the American Legion Post 490 near Ellington Field. By providing security, traffic and crowd control, the officers were able to ensure a successful operation and allow thousands of individuals to register for hurricane assistance.

Founded in 1841, the Houston Police Department continues to provide invaluable service and has grown to become the largest municipal police departments in the State of Texas. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Eldon Harris, the Clear Lake Patrol Division acts as a preserver of peace and a source of safety for the Clear Lake area of Houston.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the Houston Police Department's Clear Lake Patrol Division for their remarkable efforts following Hurricane Ike. Without their service, the